GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:559
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
PROTECTION OF HIMALAYAN GLACIERS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of research projects have been carried on 'Himalayan Glaciers';

(b) if so, the details alongwith the amount spent for the same during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the researches have indicated that the glaciers are receding gradually;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the contribution/efforts made by the Government to protect the Himalayan Glaciers from receding?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The list of projects along with total cost of the projects sanctioned during the last three years is enclosed as Annexure I.

(c) Geological Survey of India reports an average recession of 10.2m/year from 1935 to 1996 and 27.33m/year between 1956 to 1971 for Gangotri Glacier. Jawaharlal Nehru University reports an average recession of 17.15m/year from 1971 to 2004 for Gangotri Glacier.

(d) & (e): National Action Plan for Climate Change formulated by the Government of India has envisioned a National Mission on Himalayan Ecosystem.